Polythene bags spoiling coastal beauty

1428. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether polythene bags have endangered the beauty of the sea coast and marine life;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to check it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not aware of any scientific study on polythene bags endangering the beauty of the sea-coast and marine life.

(b) and (c) To discourage littering by plastic polybags and other plasti packaging materials and to encourage their recycling, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have brought out the recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999. These rules specify that minimum thickness for carrybags made of virgin or recycled plastics shall be 20 microns. These rules also prohibit the use of carrybags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuffs. In addition, several State Governments including coastal States like Goa have notified their own laws to check littering of polybags.

Notifying the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules

1429. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to come out with notifying the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules; if so, the details of the Rules, if notified;

(b) the details of the international convention signed in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for the inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) India ratified the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer on June 19, 1991 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on September 17, 1992. The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 have been notified in the Gazette of India on 19th July, 2000. Important provisions of these Rules are given as under:

(i) The Rules prohibit the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in manufacturing various products beyond 1.1.2003 except for use in metered dose inhaler and other medical uses. Similarly use of halons are probibited after 1.1.2001 except for essential use. Other Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) such as carbon tetrachloride, methyl chloroform and CFC (in metered dose inhalers) can be used for manufacture of products upto 1.1.2010. Further, the use of methyl bromide has been allowed upto 1.1.2015. Since hydrochloro-fluorocarbons (HCFCs) are used as interim substitute to replace CFCs these are allowed to be used upto 1.1.2040.

(ii) It regulates production of Ozone Depleting Substances. They are to be phased out by 2010.

(iii) The Rules have provisions for compulsory registration of ODS producers, manufacturers of ODS based products, importers, exporters stockist and sellers, and the same provision is applicable to manufacturers, importers and exporters of compressors.

(iv) The Rules provide for maintaining records and filing of periodic reports for monitoring production and use of ODS.

(v) It also mandates that enterprises how have received financial assistance from Multilateral Fund have to register the date of completion of their project and to declare that the equipment used for ODS has been destroyed.

(vi) It prohibits creation of new capacity or expansion of capacity of manufacturing facilities of ODS and ODS based equipment.

vii) Purchasers of ODS for manufacturing products containing ODS, have to declare the purpose for which ODS is purchased.

viii) It prohibits trade in ODS with non Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

ix) Authority has been specified to issue licence for all imports and exports of ODS and products containing ODS.

(c) The gradual phaseout strategy for production of CFCs in India was approved by the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol in November, 1999. The draft notification public problished in April 1998 has been updated by incorporating the provisions to regulate and control the production of CFCs. The revised draft rules were published in the Gazette of India 25th Jan., 2000 for public comments. The final notification of these rules have been published in the Gazette of India within the scheduled time.

Clearance to Kuriarkutty-Karappara Multipurpose Project

1430. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance for the proposed Kuriarkutty-Karappara multipurpose project of Kerala Government was not given by Government;

(b) if so, whether the Kerala State Minister for Electricity and Cooperation has again written to the Minister of Environment and Forests requesting him to reconsider Government's decision and give clearance to this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BUBU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal for Kuriarkutty-